United Nations E/2012/L.25

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
25 July 2012

Original: English

Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 13 (a)
Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis-Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004, on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and 66/213 of 22 December 2011, pursuant to which an ad hoc working group of the General Assembly to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category was established,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Recalling further its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007, 2009/35 of 31 July 2009 and 2011/20 of 27 July 2011,

Noting the work of the ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category,

Recalling its resolutions 2009/17 of 29 July 2009, 2010/34 of 23 July 2010, and 2011/44 of 5 December 2011 on the review of United Nations support for small islands developing States,

Noting the importance of adequate financing to address the challenges created by the adverse impacts of climate change on extremely vulnerable countries graduating from the least developed country category,

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Reiterating its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its positive development disrupted or reversed, and that it should be able to continue and sustain its progress and development,

Recalling that by its resolution 59/209 the General Assembly decided that graduation from the list of least developed countries becomes effective three years after the date when the Assembly takes note of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy, and that during the three-year period, the country remains on the list and maintains the advantages associated with membership on the list,

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the list of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered to graduate from the least developed country category,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session;[1]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the work done by the Committee on promoting productive capacity and employment in a globally responsible environment, in accordance with the theme of the annual ministerial review of the Council in 2012, on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, on the triennial review in 2012 of the list of least developed countries and on strengthening the process of smooth transition from the least developed country category;

3. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that South Sudan be added to the list of least developed countries, subject to the concurrence of the Government of South Sudan, and invites the General Assembly to take note of this recommendation;

4. *Also endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that Vanuatu be graduated from the list of least developed countries, and recommends that the General Assembly take note of this recommendation;

5. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Committee to graduate Tuvalu from the list of least developed countries, and decides to consider this issue at its next substantive session, allowing the Council an opportunity for full consideration of the particular challenges Tuvalu faces;

6. *Recalls* its endorsement made in 2009, and reiterated in subsequent sessions, of the recommendation of the Committee that Equatorial Guinea be graduated from the list of least developed countries, and urges the General Assembly to take note of that recommendation;

7. *Stresses* that inaction by the General Assembly with regard to the recommendations to graduate eligible countries is prejudicial to the credibility of the least developed country category, and in that regard urges the Assembly to take note of the actions by the Council on the recommendation of the Committee related

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 13* (E/2012/33).

to inclusion on and graduation from the list of least developed countries at its first session following the decisions of the Council;

8. *Reaffirms* that smooth transition is vital to ensuring that graduating countries are eased onto a sustainable development path without any disruption, and emphasizes that a successful transition needs to be based, for each graduating country, on its own national strategy for a smooth transition, developed under national leadership with the support of the international community, as appropriate, presenting a comprehensive and coherent set of specific, predictable and transformative measures selected in accordance with the priorities of the country, while taking into account its own specific challenges, vulnerabilities and strengths;

9. *Acknowledges* with appreciation the contributions made by the Committee to the ad hoc working group of the General Assembly to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process;

10. *Requests* the Committee, at its fifteenth session, to examine and make recommendations on the theme chosen by the Council for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2013;

11. *Also requests* the Committee to monitor the progress in the development of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries and to include its findings in its annual report to the Council;

12. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the increased frequency of interactions between the Council and the Committee, and encourages the Chair of the Committee and, as necessary, other Committee members to continue this practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20, within existing resources and as appropriate.